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"OUR FATHER."

A Manual

OF

'AMILY . PRAYER,

FOR

GENERAL AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS,

WITH

SHORT PRAYERS FOR SPARE MINUTES,

AND PASSAGES FOR REFLECTION.

BY THE

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"TEACH US TO PRAY."

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INTRODUCTORY ESSAY.

PRAYER is the inestimable privilege of the people of God. It is liberty to approach and speak with boldness to the King of kings.

It is well defined in these words: "Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God for things agreeable to his will, in the Name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies."

It must be *sincere*. If not from the

heart, it may be a beautiful form in the eyes of man, but it is altogether displeasing in the judgment of God: "Ye shall seek me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." "My son, give me thy heart."

We must pray *in faith*. "What things soever ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." "Let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith."

We must pray *with humility*. When Jacob prayed, he said, "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which Thou hast showed unto thy servant." God declares, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and

seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins."

With earnestness. Jesus in his agony "prayed the more earnestly."

With perseverance. It is after he has given an instance of the success of persevering importunity (Luke xi. 5), that our Lord adds, "Ask, and it shall be given; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you;" each clause indicating an increase of earnestness and perseverance.

With *filial fear.* It is with the spirit of adoption in our hearts, that we cry "Abba, Father." "If ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your hea-

venly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him!"

With spiritual and holy *boldness or liberty of speech.* "Seeing we have a great High Priest, let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Pleading the promises. What God has promised, we may pray for. His promises are given in Christ, ratified and Yea and Amen in Christ; and having heard the varied promises, we may render them to God again in fervent petitions. Prayers are the echoes of promises.

We must pray *to God only.* "O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come." "Thou shalt worship the

Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

In the Name of Christ: that is, resting on His atonement, relying on His intercession, pleading what He is and has done. "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." "Having boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus." Christ alone has the golden censer; He is the only "Altar that sanctifies" gifts and offerings.

By the Holy Spirit. "Ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby ye cry Abba, Father." "Access by One Spirit to the Father." "Praying with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit."

It was as sinful, under the former economy, to offer strange fire, as it was to sacrifice on any other than the one altar.

We must pray chiefly for *spiritual mercies.* These are most important. "Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all other things will be added." "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" The great model of prayer given us by our Great High Priest consists, *first* of petitions for spiritual blessings, and then for temporal.

Pardon of sin, renewal of heart, adoption, grace, and all the blessings of the covenant of grace, are possessions of inestimable importance.

We may also seek temporal blessings in subordination to the will of God, and after asking spiritual mercies. "Two things have I required of thee: deny me them not before I die. Remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me."

There are several kinds of prayer, classified according to their subjects:—

PRIVATE PRAYER.—It is often the sublimest, when not expressed in words. A deep sense of adoring dependence on God is the essence of it. The great rubric for the exercise of private prayer is in Matt. vi. 6:—"When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast

shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly." We read of the Great Example being found "alone praying:" it is recorded of Him that "he went into a mountain apart to pray."

FAMILY PRAYER.—God looks on man in all his relationships, and in each he expects man's homage and worship. Special blessings are promised to any two or three agreed on earth touching any one thing; and if there be a circle wherein this harmony should be highest, holiest, sweetest, it is the family circle. "The families that call not on the Name of God," are referred to by Jeremiah as

specially subject to judgments. But it needs no argument to enforce a practice, sanctioned by the holiest precedents, calculated to produce the best fruits, and to cement the relationships of time by the solemn ties of eternity.

PUBLIC PRAYER.—It is of this that our Lord has specially said, "When two or three are gathered together in my Name, there am I in the midst of them." "God loveth the gates of Zion." "Not forsaking assembling of yourselves together."

INTERCESSORY PRAYER, for children—friends—enemies—the sick—the sufferers—the purity and progress of the church—

the increase of faithful ministers, and the fulfilment of the promises of God.

Prayer involves blessings on the offerer. It has a reflex influence. It is its destiny also to be lost in praise.

The following Forms are not meant to supersede extemporaneous prayer, still less that worship which is in spirit. It is not the mode of praying that is the chief thing; far more important is the man that prays. A spiritual man will worship in spirit and truth, through a form; and a natural man will pray in the letter without a form. The Spirit of God alone can enable any to pray.

In the Lord's Prayer, which has been taken as the model of the following

Prayers, there is displayed in each clause a definite and fixed truth.

I. THE FILIAL SPIRIT is embodied in the first clause: "Our Father." This is the relationship in the enjoyment of which we approach God. We are to worship Him, not as a Judge upon the throne of justice, but as a Father in Christ on the throne of grace.

II. THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT: "Hallowed be thy Name." The name we desire to hallow is not that of Paul, or Luther, or Cranmer, or Knox, but that Name which is above every name.

III. THE MISSIONARY SPIRIT: "Thy

kingdom come." The Christian longs and prays for the overflow of that kingdom, which is righteousness, peace, and joy. He desires the triumphs of grace, rather than of science—to see the sceptre of Jesus sway the wide earth, and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our God and of his Christ.

IV. An Obedient Spirit: "Thy will be done." There is in every precept of Jesus the embodiment of love; in his will, the harmony of worlds, the happiness of men. They overcome, who can pray this prayer in sorrow, losses, trials.

V. A Dependent Spirit: "Give us this day our daily bread." We thus

look up to Him for our daily bread—our most indispensable necessities—food convenient for us.

VI. A FORGIVENESS-SEEKING and FORGIVING SPIRIT. "With God there is forgiveness." "In Christ we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sin;" and we show our true spirit by forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven us.

VII. A CAUTIOUS SPIRIT: "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." We are conscious of weakness, and therefore seek Divine direction and strength.

VIII. AN ADORING SPIRIT: "Thine

is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever. Amen."

Thine, not Cæsar's, is the sceptre; Thine, not ours, the power to grant every petition, to overrule every event; Thine the glory, and none else, of Creation, Providence, Redemption.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER.

Lessons—Psalm li. Matt. vi.

Teach us to pray.

HEAVENLY FATHER, we know not our wants and necessities as they are; but we believe them to be many and deep. Oh reveal to us ourselves; show us our own hearts; make known to us what we need; how poor, and blind, and ignorant we are by nature; and help and teach us to own and acknowledge to Thee our transgressions, and estrangement, and alienation from Thee.

Teach us, O Lord, to know and trust Thee as our eternal and reconciled God and Father in Jesus Christ. Teach us to worship Thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. Teach us to see and feel that in Thee is the fountain of life; the source of light, and joy, and peace; all grace, and goodness, and love, and happiness; and that from Thee the weakest may have strength, and the neediest abundance, and the guiltiest pardon through Christ Jesus. Oh teach us thy willingness to do us good—thy delight in mercy. May we ever feel in seeking pardon, and reconciliation, and peace, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, that thy ways are not our ways, nor thy thoughts our thoughts;

but that thy thoughts are above our thoughts, and thy ways above our ways, as heaven is above earth. May we have a deeper and more humbling sense of our sinfulness, and may we pray more fervently for forgiveness.

Reveal to us the efficacy and sufficiency of the blood of Jesus, the perfection of his sacrifice, the power of his resurrection, the prevalence of his intercession; —and teach us to pray as believers from the very heart in these great and precious truths.

Teach us to pray with the whole heart.

Teach us to pray in faith; to draw near to Thee with a true heart in full assurance of faith.

Teach us to pray in all humility and

lowliness, as not worthy of the least of all thy mercies, and to humble ourselves and seek thy face, and turn from all our wicked ways.

Teach us to pray with perseverance. May we continue to ask, and seek, and knock, and to be assured that we shall obtain if we faint not.

Teach us to approach thy footstool with filial fear, and with all boldness and freedom of utterance, pleading the promises in the name of Him in whom they all are Yea and Amen.

Grant us, above all, thy Holy Spirit, that we may pray with all prayer and supplication in the spirit. May spiritual blessings and mercies be our first and chiefest concern. May we seek first thy

kingdom, the forgiveness of sin, the regeneration of our hearts, the salvation of our souls. Teach us to feel more than we have ever felt the great importance, the unspeakable glory of these things.

Grant us such earthly blessings as may seem to thy wisdom and love most expedient for us. Remove far from us vanity and lies; give us neither poverty nor riches; feed us with food convenient for us.

Teach us, O God, to enter into our closets, and shut the door, and pray to our Father who seeth and heareth in secret. Teach us to gather round the family altar and daily to call on thy name.

Teach us to pray for all men, especially

for all in authority, that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives.

Grant us, for thy dear Son's sake, filial, catholic, and missionary feeling, an obedient, dependent, and forgiving spirit, without care, and yet watchful; praying without ceasing, and rendering, in soul, body, and spirit, adoration, thanksgiving, and glory, and praise, to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, our God and the God of our Fathers.

May the Spirit pray within us. May the Saviour pray for us. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O God, our strength and our Redeemer. Teach us also to praise Thee as our Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer. Bless

the Lord, O our soul, and all that is within us be stirred up to magnify and bless his holy name. Thou, O Lord, pardonest our sins, and healest our diseases, and satisfiest our mouths with good things. Thou renewest our youth like the eagle's. Thou crownest us with loving-kindness and tender mercies. Like as a father pitieth his children, so doth the Lord pity them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgression from us. We bless Thee for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We bless and praise Thee for his resurrection and intercession, and his promise to come again. We bless Thee for the

Bible in our own tongue, for the Gospel so faithfully and extensively proclaimed, for sacraments, and ordinances, and hopes, and faith, and joy, and peace; for all these we praise and bless and glorify Thee. In our lives may we praise Thee, with alms and spiritual sacrifices, and love, and liberality may we praise Thee; to eternity, and in a new song, may we praise Thee.

Grant us our requests as may be most expedient for us. for thy dear Son's sake. Amen.

I.—SUNDAY.

MORNING PRAYER.

Our Father which art in heaven.

Lessons—Psalm ciii. or Matt. vi. or Ephes. iii. or 1 John iii.

We will arise and go to our Father, and we will say, Father, we have sinned against heaven and before Thee, and we are no more worthy to be called thy sons.

We bow our knees to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant us, according

to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

OUR FATHER, whose throne is in the heavens, Thou art the Father of our spirits, the Father of mercies; to Thee we lift up our hearts and say, Abba, Father. Give us grace, we beseech Thee, to come to Thee with the feelings and trust of children. Oh, may we all here present be the sons of God, born again, not of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

We have sinned against heaven, and

before Thee, and we are no more worthy to be called thy children. We have not honoured and loved and served Thee as we ought to have done. In our hearts and affections, we have gone astray from Thee. We have too often broken thy holy laws, and abused the precious privileges vouchsafed to us, and grieved and offended Thee.

O Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and ours in Him, forgive our manifold sins and offences through Him who is our Advocate with Thee. Spare us, O God, as one spareth his son that serveth him. Shed down from heaven the dew of thy great mercy upon us. Thou hast promised the Holy Spirit to them that ask Thee. We therefore

beseech Thee to give us thy Holy Spirit to teach us savingly, to direct us in all our ways, to strengthen us, to feed us, to keep us and govern us evermore.

This day let thine eye rest on us, and let our hearts thirst for thee. Destroy within us the spirit of bondage, which fears Thee and flees from Thee as an avenging Judge; and plant in our hearts the spirit of love, that we may look to Thee as to a loving and a gracious Father. In this far country may we find and feel in Thee a home; amidst vexing cares may we have in Thee peace. God forbid that this world's profits, or pleasures, or troubles, or losses, should withdraw our hearts from Thee, or intrude on our communion with Thee. May this day be

more delightful to us than a thousand. May we enter thy courts with praise and thy gates with thanksgiving, and present ourselves before Thee on this thy sabbath in the sanctuary, as erring and sinful, but returning and confiding children.

Give to thy minister who shall this day speak to us the unction of the Holy One, faithfulness and boldness, speaking the truth in love. May our souls be refreshed, and our hearts impressed. May it be good for us to be in thy house. Feed us there with the finest of the wheat. We ask all these mercies in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord.

May grace and mercy and peace from God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, rest upon us all the day, and evermore. Amen.

II.—SUNDAY.

EVENING PRAYER.

Our Father which art in heaven.

Lessons—1 John iii. 1 Peter i.

Thou art our Father, though Abraham be ignorant of us and Israel acknowledge us not. Thou, O Lord, art our Father, our Redeemer; thy Name is from everlasting.

Now, O Lord, Thou art our Father: we are the clay and Thou our potter, and we are all the work of thy hand.

Grace be unto us and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because we are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

O LORD, our everlasting Father, make us by thy grace the sons of God, and in due time the heirs of glory. As thy children we would love Thee, not in word, nor in tongue only, but in deed, and in truth. Born of Thee, may we not commit sin. In this may we be manifest as the children of God.

Wherein we have this day thought or spoken or acted inconsistently with our great and holy relationship, do Thou, O God our Father, forgive us, in the Name

and through the all-prevailing intercession of thy Eternal Son, our Saviour. May His blood cleanse us, may His righteousness cover us; may we be justified by His righteousness, and in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment, may we be found among the children of God, who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. May the truths we have this day read and heard sink into our hearts, and prove good seed in good soil, and bring forth much fruit to thy honour and glory.

Give us also, O Lord, thy Holy Spirit, the Spirit of adoption. Enable us to honour Thee—to walk as the children of the Great King, renewed after the image of Jesus. Lead us by thy Spirit—guide

us by thy counsel; and may thy Spirit witness with our spirits that we are the children of God.

O God, our Father, may we never distrust Thee, who feedest the ravens, and arrayest the flowers of the field; and wherein we have had hard thoughts of Thee in times past, may we have such no more.

Make us followers of Thee, as dear children—merciful, as Thou art merciful—peacemakers, as the sons of the God of peace.

May we serve Thee, as obedient children; esteeming thy service our greatest freedom, and the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt.

Draw our affections more and more from the things of time, and fix them more and more on Thee. Impress upon our hearts, what we are convinced of in our judgment, that this world is neither our rest nor our home. Never suffer us to make either its pleasures or its profits the great end of our labours, or the absorbing desire of our souls.

Spread thy fatherly protection over and around us and our household, this night. Shield us from all plague, and pestilence, and fire, and evil of any kind. We are in ourselves weak and helpless, but in Thee we can do all things, and under thy shadow we are amidst the munition of rocks.

Extend to others the spiritual and

temporal blessings we so largely enjoy, and enable us in our place, and according to our means, to promote thy cause and kingdom at home and abroad. We ask of Thee this night, kneeling at thy footstool, these and all other benefits and mercies expedient for us, in the Name of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.

The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face shine upon us, and be gracious to us; the Lord lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace. Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father, to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

III.—MONDAY.

MORNING PRAYER.

Hallowed be thy Name.

Lessons—Ps. xcvi. Ps. cxiii. Ps. lxiii.

LET thy Name be magnified for ever. Blessed be thy glorious Name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. Thou, even Thou, art Lord alone. Thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host; the earth and all things that are therein; the seas and all that is therein; and Thou preservest

them all, and the host of heaven worshippeth Thee.

Blessed be his glorious Name for ever. Let the whole earth be filled with his glory.

O LORD, we kneel together this morning at the throne of the heavenly grace, in the Name of Jesus Christ, our blessed and only Saviour, beseeching Thee to bow down thine ear, and hear us. We adore and worship Thee as the God of Creation, Providence, Redemption, dwelling in light inaccessible and full of glory. We put our trust in thy Name, and to it we flee as to a strong tower.

Blessed, O God, be thy glorious Name,

for all Thou art to us, and for all Thou hast done for us. We have slept peacefully under the shadow of thy wings, and we have risen in undeserved health and strength, to prosecute the duties of another day.

We bless Thee that we have thy holy word, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. We bless and praise Thee that we are not only permitted, but invited to come with boldness to the Throne of Grace, to seek mercy and acceptance through the blood of Jesus, and grace and strength to enable us to walk in his ways, advancing his kingdom, and glorifying his Name.

This morning we would, by faith, have recourse to the blood of sprinkling,

or the remission of all our sins and offences.

We humbly beg with one heart thy Holy Spirit. May He dwell within us as a light that cannot be extinguished. Quicken our souls, sanctify our hearts, purify our affections;—fix our hopes on Thee.

O Lord, we humbly beseech Thee to grant, that whatsoever we do this day, we may do it as in thy presence, and to the glory of thy Name. Whether we eat or drink, may we live to Thee. Be Thou a voice upon our right hand and upon our left, whispering to our hearts, This is the way, walk ye in it. Light up a pillar of fire to lead us by night, and be to us a pillar of cloud to guide us by day.

Feed us with the bread that perisheth and with the bread of life. May Sabbath-day thoughts and truths and influences go with us, and inspire our week-day conduct. May men take notice of us that we have been at Jesus.

As our day is, let our strength be. Proportion thy mercies to our necessities; and grant that we may find to our delighted experience, that all thy promises are Yea and Amen in Christ. Oh, cleanse Thou us from secret faults,—keep us back from all presumptuous sins,—let them not have dominion over us. Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer. Show unto us thy power and thy glory,

for thy loving-kindness is better than life. Clothe us in the beauty of holiness. Show us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation. Endue thy ministers with thy righteousness, and make thy chosen people joyful. O Lord, save the Queen. Establish her throne in righteousness. Continue to us our liberties and privileges to all generations. Make us true Christians. Make our fellow-subjects sons of the living God. Let our land yield its increase, and do Thou bless us. Hear us in the Name of Jesus, unto whom with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, we would give the glory and strength due unto thy Name. Amen.

IV.—MONDAY.

EVENING PRAYER.

Hallowed be thy Name.

Lessons—Ps. lxii. JOHN v. EPHES. iv. JOHN iv.

HOLY and reverend is the Name of our God.

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, and honour, and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

THY Name, O Lord, is The Lord, the Lord God, merciful, gracious, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. We bless and praise Thee that in Christ, the Everlasting Rock, Thou hast revealed thy great Name.

Oh, glorify thy Name in the forgiveness of our sins. We have too often lightly esteemed it; too frequently forgotten it; too little feared it. May we hallow thy Name by living soberly, righteously, and godly. May we let our light so shine before others, that seeing our good works they may glorify Thee. May we remember we are thy temple; may we hate sin, which defiles the temple, and dishonours

God. Oh, help us to seek after and to practise whatsoever things are true, and just, and honest, and lovely, and of good report. The Name of Christ is named upon us: O Lord, may we do nothing to bring discredit on it. May we speak, and act, and promise, and perform, as Christians. May the world see by our conduct that thy blessed Gospel purifies, exalts, ennobles us.

O Lord, in whatever way, in thought or in word or in deed, known or unknown to us, we may have felt, or thought, or acted unworthily of Him whose Gospel we profess, do Thou, for Christ's sake, most mercifully forgive us.

Let thy fear be in every heart, and thy worship in every house; and let

thy Name be hallowed from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof. Pour out thy Holy Spirit upon all flesh. If we suffer, may we suffer as Christians. May they that rejoice be as though they rejoiced not, and they that weep as though they wept not. May we use thy world as not abusing it, for its fashion speedily passeth away.

Be thou to us evermore a strong tower. Spread over us thy shield, enclose us and all ours this night in the everlasting arms, and encompass us with thy favour, which is better than life, for Jesus' Name's sake.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

V.—TUESDAY.

MORNING PRAYER.

Thy kingdom come.

Lessons—Ps. cii. Matt. v. 1 Cor. ii. Rev. vii. 9—17.

The God of heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed.

The kingdom of God is not meat or drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

LORD our God, thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. Let thy kingdom, which is not meat or drink, but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, be erected and established in our souls, flourish in our family, and spread over the whole earth. Set up thy throne in our hearts. Sway our affections, and subjugate all our faculties to thy service. Let the beauty of holiness be our ornament, the righteousness of Christ our covering, and the peace that passeth understanding our possession this day. May Christ expiate our sins by his blood, and extirpate our sins by his sceptre. O God, pardon our iniquities through

the perfect atonement of Jesus. O Lord Most High, purify our natures by thy Holy Spirit, working in us that which is well-pleasing in thy holy sight. May we love thy law; may we illustrate its precepts in our conduct, not only in great but in little things, not only before men but in secret, not only this day but always. May thy grace influence us everywhere; may thy presence be felt by us at all times; and may we more and more feel thy yoke to be easy, and thy burden to be light. Let the kingdom of grace come into every bosom, let the kingdom of peace come into every family, and let the kingdom of glory speedily prevail over all the earth. Bless all who labour with earnest hearts to promote it; forgive

their errors and infirmities, and accompany their exertions with thy blessing. Bless thy church universal; that portion of it especially with which we worship, and thy servant the minister of it. Keep us, O Lord, this day in thy fear and favour. Thee we would set before us: do Thou, then, direct our steps. We ask these, and all other mercies Thou seest to be most expedient for us, in the Name and through the intercession of Jesus Christ our only Mediator and Advocate.

And now unto Him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before his presence with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

VI.—TUESDAY.

EVENING PRAYER.

Thy kingdom come.

Lessons—Ps. cxlv. Ps. lxxii. Ephes. iv.

We will speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power, and make known to the sons of men God's mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom.

Let the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ.

LORD, Thou art a Great King above all gods. Thou art clothed with majesty. Thou art the King of Glory.

At the close of this day we would come to thy presence humbly seeking forgiveness. We have not walked as subjects of thy kingdom. We have not had many thoughts to spare for Thee. We have not set our affections on heavenly things. We have not sought first, above all, the kingdom of God. We are too prone to look at this world as our joy, and to withdraw our affections from Thee.

O Lord, forgive our cold affections, our earthly desires, our worldly thoughts, our forgetfulness of Thee, our Father,

our God, our Portion. Increase our faith in the efficacy of the Saviour's blood. O God, enable us to put our trust and confidence in Him, as our Prophet, Priest, and King. May He be made to us Righteousness, Wisdom, Redemption.

O God, show thy mercy upon us, and grant us thy salvation. O Lord, nourish within us thy truth. Increase in our hearts the influence of thy grace, and love, and mercy. Prepare us for thy kingdom of glory, even an "eternal weight of glory."

O Lord, have mercy on the sick, the afflicted, and the dying. Pity them that suffer for thy Name's sake. Show thy mercy on all prisoners and captives —on all, whether strangers or related to

us, who travel by land or by sea. Surround them with the everlasting arms.

Have mercy on all widows and orphans, —on all that mourn the loss of friends and relations,—on all who feel the crosses, trials, and vicissitudes of earth.

Hasten the time when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of Christ, and He shall reign from sea to sea.

O Lord, send us seed time and harvest, the early and the latter rain, according to thy great liberality; withhold from us those judgments which we have provoked, and pour down upon us those mercies which Thou hast promised. Bless our country, thy servant our Sovereign, and all over us in lawful authority. Let peace be within our borders. Let right-

eousness exalt us. Let the glory that dwelt between the cherubim shine upon us. May thy fear be in every heart now before Thee in this place. May our common worship rise up with acceptance before thy throne. May richer blessings than we desire descend upon us.

Hear us, O Lord, thou hearer of prayer. In the name of our only Lord and Saviour, we ask and hope for an answer in mercy. Deny us not thy blessing. Spare us, and have mercy upon us. From all evil and mischief, from the crafts and assaults of the Devil, from thy wrath and everlasting condemnation, good Lord, deliver us. And unto Father, Son, and Holy Ghost be equal and eternal glory. Amen.

VII.—WEDNESDAY.

MORNING PRAYER.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Lessons—Ps. lxvii. Heb. xii. Ps. xxiii.

God be merciful unto us, and bless us, and cause his face to shine upon us. Selah.

That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise Thee, O God; let all the people praise Thee.

O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for Thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah.

Let the people praise Thee, O God; let all the people praise Thee.

Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

O LORD, Thou art the true and the living God, who wast, and art, and art to come. Thou art clothed with honour and with majesty. Light is thy garment, and thick darkness is thy pavilion. Thou madest us. Thou

rulest over all. Thy will is done in the armies of heaven. Thou art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders. In the Name of Jesus we adore and worship Thee; through Him alone we thank and bless Thee; and by his mediation alone we seek grace and glory.

We praise Thee with one heart, and thank Thee together for the providential mercies of the night now past. We thank Thee that neither fire, nor plague, nor any evil, has come near our dwelling. Beneath the overshadowing wings of thy fatherly protection we lay down, and under the light of thy countenance we have arisen and are refreshed. Thy power and thy watchful providence we thus acknowledge and praise together.

We are all guilty before Thee, O Thou Holy One. We have weak and sinful hearts and depraved wills, and, like lost sheep, we have too often erred and strayed from Thee. May the precious blood of Jesus be sprinkled on our hearts and consciences. May his atonement be our trust. By Him, O Lord, freely forgive us. In Him, O God, perfectly justify us.

Create in us clean hearts. Incline them to thy law. Renew our nature in thy holy likeness. Help us to do thy will. May we this day have strength for its duties, patience for its trials, and thy peace keeping us in the midst of its perplexities. May it be our delight to do thy will, O God. Give us grace to

do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee. As parents, as children, as masters, as servants, may we have light, and inclination, and power from Thee, to pursue our respective duties in our several places, with singleness of eye and simplicity of heart. May we never fail each to remember, or to feel, "THOU GOD SEEST ME." While in this world, may we not be of it. Add thy blessing to our gains, and sanctify to us our losses; and let neither prosperity nor adversity draw away our affections from Thee.

We know not what this day may bring forth. Oh, may we be always ready. O Heavenly Father, seal us for thine own. May we be found in Christ

this day, and in the Day of Judgment, that we may reign and rejoice with Him for ever. Bless our country, and of thy great mercy give peace in our time. Bless our Sovereign the Queen, and all under her, and over us. Bless abundantly the whole Church of Christ, and especially that portion of it in which we statedly assemble together for public worship. Give us family mercies. Let our children grow up as olive plants, blessed of Thee, and blessings to their home and their country, and to thy Church. O Lord, keep our feet from falling, our eyes from tears, and our souls from death. Guide us this day by thy heavenly wisdom, preserve us by thy mighty power, and prosper us by

thy gracious blessing, and receive us finally to thy presence. These and all other mercies we humbly ask in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, we ascribe all honour, and praise, and glory, now and ever. Amen.

VIII.—WEDNESDAY.

EVENING PRAYER.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Lessons—Job i. John xiii. Prov. xii. Rev. xxi.

His Name shall endure for ever, his Name shall be continued as long as the sun, and men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed.

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things.

And blessed be his glorious Name for ever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen, and Amen.

THY will, O Lord, is infinitely good, and thy ways are all just and true. O Lord, let thy will, which is our sanctification, be done in us. May we no longer work the will of the flesh. May it be our meat and our drink to do the will of our Father in heaven. In all our trials and losses and afflictions upon earth, O Lord, may we have grace to say, "Not as we will, but as Thou wilt." In all time of our wealth, in all time of our tribulation, may we do thy will; and in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment, may we inherit the promises. Over all our pains, and all our losses, may we meekly, and with no feigned lips, say, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away: blessed

be the name of the Lord." Give us understanding to know thy will: give us grace cheerfully to do it. Wherein we have transgressed thy commandments, in thought, or word, or deed, in early or in later days, O most merciful Father, do thou forgive, in the exercise of that pardoning mercy which flows unobstructed through Jesus Christ, to all that in his Name earnestly seek the same; and henceforth help us to triumph over sin in thy strength, to cleave to thy will and word continually, and to overcome, and receive the morning star. Give us grace to deny ourselves—to live not to ourselves. Hide pride from us, and clothe us with humility. May the same mind be in us that was also in Christ

Jesus. May our conversation be without covetousness. Instruct us both how to be abased, and how to abound.

For this day's mercies, O Lord, we adore and praise Thee. Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with his benefits. Thy candle hath shined upon us, and thy secret hath been in our tabernacle. Thou art the Giver of all our mercies, the Fountain of all our blessings, the Supplier of all our wants. O God, may we never forget Thee. O Lord, keep us from ingratitude. Bestow upon us humble and obedient and thankful hearts. Help us, Heavenly Father, to see the number and greatness of thy mercies, and not only with our lips, but in our hearts and lives, to praise

Thee. Hear us in heaven, the habitation of thy holiness, in the Name of Him who is the Way and the Truth and the Life, who is our Advocate with Thee the Father, and ever liveth to make intercession for us—even Jesus. May the peace of God, that passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Christ Jesus; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, rest upon us, and abide with us, and with all near and dear to us, here or in a strange land, this night, and for evermore. Amen.

IX.—THURSDAY.

MORNING PRAYER.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Lessons—Gen. xxviii. Prov. xxx. John vi. 1 Cor. x

All wait on God, and He giveth them their meat in due season. Our heavenly Father feedeth the fowls of the air, which do not sow, and arrayeth the lilies of the field, which do not spin, with greater glory than Solomon's: how much more will He clothe and feed us. He knoweth we have need of all these things.

THOU Fountain of good, Thou blessed Giver of every good and perfect gift, enable us to ask of thy grace what we have forfeited by our sins—daily bread. We look up to Thee, not as an Exactor, but a Giver. Give us neither poverty nor riches, but feed us with food convenient for us. Having food and raiment, may we be therewith content. We desire not the bread of idleness, but we do humbly pray for thy blessing on the work of our hands, and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us and on all near and dear to us.

And, Heavenly Father, should it be thy will, for wise, though to us mysterious ends, to withhold from us the early and

the latter rain, or to visit us with losses, O Thou whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant that if the fig-tree shall not blossom, and there shall be no fruit in the vine; if the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; if the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stall; that yet we may be able to rejoice in Thee our Lord, and to joy in Thee, the God of our salvation. May we never be so anxious about the bread that perisheth, that we forget the infinitely higher importance of that Living Bread that cometh down from heaven. May we have fewer vexing cares about what we shall eat and drink and be clothed withal. May we cast our cares

upon Thee. Oh satisfy the poor with bread. But, O Heavenly Father, bestow upon us most chiefly the forgiveness of sins. Sprinkle our souls with the atoning and cleansing efficacies of the blood of Jesus. Sanctify us through thy truth, and by thy Holy Spirit. Renew us in thy likeness. May our faith grow stronger: do thou nourish it. We believe: Lord, help our unbelief. May our peace flow as a river, and our joy advance as the morning light.

Heartily we beseech Thee to give us hearts to sympathize with others. May we be ready to communicate; willing to bless others as thou hast blessed us. This day give us grace to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly

with Thee, our God, through Jesus Christ.

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face shine upon us, and be gracious to us. The Lord lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace.

Lord, thus put thy Name upon us and bless us, and all the children of Israel.

Lord, be Thou our keeper, and our shade on our right hand. Let not the sun smite us by day, nor the moon by night. Lord, preserve us from all evil: preserve our souls. Lord, preserve our going out and our coming in, from this time forth, even for evermore. We ask all in the Name of Him who is able to keep us from falling, even Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

X.—THURSDAY.

EVENING PRAYER.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Lessons—Ps. cxlvii. Ps. xxiii. Coloss. iii.

Lord, be Thou our shepherd. May we not want what is good for us. Prepare a table for us in the presence of our enemies. Let goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our life; and let us dwell in thy house for ever.

THOU, who art the King immortal and invisible, the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth, who faintest not

neither art weary; most holy, most just, most true; we sinners draw near to Thee, by Him who is the Way, and the Truth, and the Life, and by the spirit of adoption we call Thee Father.

In Thee we live, and move, and have our being. This day we have waited upon Thee, and Thou hast given us our meat in due season. Thou hast opened thy liberal hand, and filled us with good. Thou hast given us our daily bread, and hast made our cup to run over. Our health and strength come from Thee, and our sicknesses, and sorrows, and trials, are all sanctified of Thee. We bless, and praise, and thank Thee for all we are and have; for all things come of Thee. For thy good and protecting

Providence we bless Thee. What is man, that Thou art mindful of him! Thou feedest us with the finest wheat: Thou makest our hearts glad within us. Oh, may thy mercies swell our hearts. May thy goodness lead us to repentance. May we not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Bless the provision of thy Church, and satisfy her poor with bread.

Help us from the heart to bless, and adore, and thank Thee for all Thou art to us.

For thy preserving mercy we thank Thee; above all, for thy holy word, and for Him most chiefly who is our only Saviour, and King, and Head, and High Priest. We render Thee the expressions

of hearts that desire to be more thankful than they are. Whatever of sin Thou hast seen in us this day, forgive, we beseech Thee, through the atoning sacrifice of Christ Jesus. Whatever of evil, in thought, or word, or deed, hath cleaved to our conduct in any place, do Thou graciously take away, in the Name of the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world.

Replenish our minds with divine wisdom, and inspire our hearts with thy grace, and lead us in thy paths. This night watch over us by thine omniscience, and defend us by thy power; and us, and all connected with us, keep of thy great mercy in Jesus Christ, for thy kingdom and glory.

Now unto Him that is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore. Amen.

XI.—FRIDAY.

MORNING PRAYER.

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us.

Lessons—Micah vii. Ps. li. Ps. lxv. 1 Tim. i.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

FTER thy loving kindness, O Lord, have mercy upon us. According to thy great compassion, blot out all our iniquities.

Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins. Hide thy face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities, in the Saviour's blood. Wash us, and then through Christ Jesus we shall be whiter than the snow. We acknowledge our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against Thee, Thee only have we sinned, and done evil in thy sight, that Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest, and clear when Thou judgest. Behold, we were shapen in iniquity, and in sin did our mothers conceive us; but to Thee, O Lord, belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against Thee. Thou pardonest iniquity. Pass by the transgression of thy heritage;

turn and have compassion upon us, for Jesus' sake; subdue our iniquities, cast our sins into the depths of the sea. Bestow upon us the sacrifice of God, even a broken spirit; create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew right spirits within us; cast us not away from thy presence, nor take thy Holy Spirit from us; restore to us the joys of thy salvation; uphold us with thy free Spirit. O Lord, open Thou our lips, and our mouths shall show forth thy praise. Iniquities prevail against us: oh, do Thou take them away. What is sinful may we hate; what is holy may we love. Keep us this day in thy fear; hold up our goings; keep our feet from falling, our eyes from tears, our souls from death; prepare us

for trials, preserve us in peril, prosper us in the way of thy commandments, and receive us finally to thy glory. Guide us by thy counsel, arm us with thy strength, crown us with thy blessing; and do to us, and for us, exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think, for Jesus' sake.

To all mankind extend the mercies, blessings, and privileges, undeservedly bestowed on us. Give to Christ speedily the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all. Amen.

XII.—FRIDAY.

EVENING PRAYER.

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us.

Lessons—Ps. li. Ps. cxxx. Luke vi. Rom. viii. John i.

Who is like unto our God, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger for ever. He delighteth in mercy. He will have compassion upon us. He will subdue our iniquities; he will cast our sins into the depths of the sea.

WE sinners, O Lord, beseech Thee to hear us. We are all guilty before Thee.

We have all come short of thy glory. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have done those things we ought not to have done, and we have left undone those things we ought to have done; and there is no health in us. If thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquity, O Lord, who could stand! But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared. O Lord, be merciful to us sinners. We rely on the perfect atonement, the glorious sacrifice of the Son of God in our nature on the Cross. By Him, in whom Thou rejoicest to meet us, have mercy upon us. Through Him,

in whom Thou art just even in justifying us, blot out our sins and offences. We plead his precious blood and thy great mercy, his finished righteousness and thy unfailing love. Forgive us the sins of our youth. Remember not against us the sins of riper years. Pardon our personal and our relative sins; our secret sins; the sins of this day, known or unknown to us; the sins of our holy things. Help us to feel deeply our iniquity, and only deeper still thy manifold mercy in Jesus Christ.

Enable us from the heart to forgive our enemies. May we recompense to no man evil for evil. May we be kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God for Christ's sake

hath forgiven us. Make us merciful, as our Father in Heaven is merciful. May each day close upon us at peace with Thee and all mankind, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse Thou us from secret faults. Keep back thy servants from all presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over us; then shall we be upright, and innocent from great transgression. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord our strength and our Redeemer, in the Name and for the glory of our only Advocate and Intercessor at the Father's right hand. Grace, mercy, and peace rest and abide with us always. Amen.

XIII.—SATURDAY.

MORNING PRAYER.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Lessons—Ps. xci., or Isaiah liv., or James i.

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

God giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

O LORD, lead us and guide us in the way of thy commandments. Search us, O God, and know our hearts; and try us, and know our thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting. It is not in man, that walketh, to direct his steps. We therefore look up to Thee, and lean on Thee, O God. This day watch over us in thy gracious providence in all our goings. Cast us not away from thy presence, in which is fulness of joy. Take not thy Holy Spirit from us, for He is our Comforter and Teacher. Hold up our goings, that our footsteps slip not. Be Thou our refuge and our strength, our present help in time of trouble, our rock, our high tower,

and our deliverer, our God. Keep us while *in* the world, as not *of* the world; while occupied in its duties, may we be preserved graciously by Thee from its snares. May we rejoice as though we rejoiced not; and weep as though we wept not; and use the world as not abusing it, for the fashion of it passeth away. O Lord, be Thou our keeper. Care for us, for we cast all our care on Thee. Be Thou our shade on our right hand. Preserve our going out and coming in, from this time forth, even for evermore. O Most Gracious Father, deliver us from all evil. From the curse that awaits sin in the world that is to come, and from its influence and its supremacy in the world that now is, do Thou mercifully and daily save us.

From the condemnation of sin, justly incurred by us all, and from the power, and pollution, and disquiet of sin, which prevails against us, do Thou deliver us, through the atoning blood and all-prevailing intercession of our High Priest and Saviour, the Son of God. From the crafts and wiles of the evil one, from the lust of the eye, the pride of life, and the sinful love and the excessive love of the world, be pleased, O Lord, in thy great mercy, to deliver us. Keep us from falling. Preserve us to thy Kingdom and Glory. Perfect Divine strength in human weakness. Hold us by thy right hand. Strengthen us with all might. Help us to overcome. Reserve for us a crown of life. Preserve us from all *iniquity*,—from all the love of it, and the

poison of it: make us a peculiar people, living epistles, a purchased possession, a holy nation, zealous of good works. O Thou in whom we have believed, keep that which we have committed unto Thee, in the Name of Him who loved us and gave himself for us. In all time of our tribulation, in all time of our wealth, in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment, good Lord, deliver us. In Thee, O Lord, do we trust; may we never be confounded. Our only help and hope are in Thee, our Father in Jesus Christ.

The Lord bless us in the city, and bless us in the field. The Lord bless our basket and our store. The Lord bless us when we go out, and when we come in. Amen.

XIV.—SATURDAY.

EVENING PRAYER.

Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Lessons—Ps. lxv. Ps. cxlv. Matt. xxv. 1 Peter i. Rev. v.

Every day will we bless Thee, and praise thy Name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion, slow to anger, and of great mercy. The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear Him.

GOD, Thou art Lord of all. All things come of Thee, and Thou reignest over all. Take unto Thee thy great power, and reign in every heart, and house, and kingdom; causing the fruits of thy reign—righteousness, and joy, and peace—to break forth everywhere. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations, and thy sceptre is righteousness. Make us thy willing subjects, thy obedient servants, and thy loving sons. May we love thy law, and speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness.

Thou art great in power, and greatly to be praised. Lord of all power and

might, Thou that art the Author of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of thy Name. Increase in us true religion. Nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same, through Jesus Christ.

Show thy power, in pardoning all our sins,—the sins we may have forgotten; in changing all our hearts, and quickening them with Divine life; in purifying all our affections; in strengthening us in all our trials, and supporting us in difficulties; in enabling us to vanquish all our spiritual enemies; and finally, in bringing us to thy kingdom and glory, to reign and live with Thee for ever. We render Thee all the glory of all we are and have by nature, or in Providence, or through grace, and of

all we hope for, on earth or in heaven. How precious are thy thoughts unto us, O God; how great is the sum of them! Let the earth be filled with thy glory, and let it reach above the heavens. Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things, and blessed be his glorious Name for ever. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Return, O Lord, how long? and let it repent Thee concerning thy servants. Oh, satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad according to the days wherein Thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto

their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it.

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory. Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name: Thy kingdom come: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven: Give us this day our daily bread: Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into temptation, but

deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore. Amen

XV.

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER.

Lessons—Ps. xlvi. Ps. lxiii. Dan. ix. Luke xv. John xvii. Eph. vi.

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heaven and the earth is thine. Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and Thou art exalted as Head above all. Both riches and honour come of Thee, and Thou reignest over all, and in thine hand is power and might, and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength to all.

We are strangers before Thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers; our days on the earth are a shadow, and there is none abiding.

OUR Father, whose throne is the heavens, whose footstool is the earth; we come to Thee as children, taught, we trust, by thy Holy Spirit, to say, "Abba, Father." Enable us to sanctify and cherish thy Name, in our thoughts, affections, words, and actions; reverently and yet affectionately to speak of it, and constantly in all things to glorify it. Let thy kingdom of grace be set up in all our hearts, and let thy kingdom of glory come speedily. Let Satan's kingdom be destroyed, and let

the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of Thee and thy Christ. Let thy will be done on earth purely, perfectly, universally, as it is done in heaven. Teach us to know thy will; give us grace to obey it: may all things on earth be speedily brought into subjection to it; make us willing in the day of thy power; work within us both to will and do of thy good pleasure. May we each be able always, and in all circumstances—in losses, bereavements, trials, and sicknesses—to say, "Father, not as I will, but as Thou wilt."

Give us day by day our daily bread; feed us with food convenient for us; may it please Thee to give us health to enjoy it. Put thy blessing on our daily bread.

Provide for us, and all dependent on us, in this life, as to Thee seemeth best; and feed us with that living bread which cometh down from heaven, and is the nourishment of the life to come.

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us. We humbly ask forgiveness through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus; may his atoning blood cleanse us. Say to each of us, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." Give us grace, as forgiven ourselves, to forgive them that grieve and evil entreat us, as Thou, for Christ's sake, hast forgiven us.

Lead us not into temptation; save us from it, or in it. Let thy strength be made perfect in our weakness: as our day is, may our strength be.

Deliver us from every evil. Save us from the power and tyranny of evil passions; from the influence of evil example; from the condemnation of sin hereafter, and from the contagion of sin here. Save us, O God, by grace.

Thine, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God, and our God, is the kingdom that endureth for ever; thine is the power to control, overule and direct all; and thine is the glory of all we are, and have, and expect.

May these our humble petitions be heard in Christ's name.

The peace of God that passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Christ Jesus; and may

the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst us, and abide with us always.

XVI.

MORNING PRAYER.

Lessons—Psalm xxxiv. Prov. xxxi.

O LORD, the Father of mercies, who turnest the shadow of death into the morning, and renewest the face of the earth, cause us to hear thy loving-kindness in the morning, for in Thee do we trust. Our hearts condemn us, and Thou art greater than our hearts, and knowest all things. We are sinners, we feel and know that we are so,

in thought, and word, and deed; we have grieved and vexed Thee; we have done wickedly; there is no health in us. Forgive us, gracious Father, through the merits of our Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus. Blot out our sins and offences in his most precious blood: accept of us and justify us for thy Name's sake. In that fountain opened for sin and uncleanness, wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins. Graciously pardon whatever we have done amiss; remember not, Lord, our offences; have mercy upon and spare thy people, redeemed with the precious blood of Jesus, and be not angry with them for ever.

Grant unto us thy Holy Spirit; may

He quicken our faith, inspire our hearts, and renew us day by day in thy likeness. Grant us a double portion of thy Spirit; may He abide with us this day and ever. Bestow upon us that unction from the Holy One which teacheth all things. Let the Comforter come unto us. Perfect whatever is wanting within us. Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. Shed abroad in our hearts the love of Thee; make us humble; make us charitable, holding the truth in love—not thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think, but soberly. May we with one mind and one mouth glorify God. Keep us this day without sin.

Give us grace to add to our faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to know-

ledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity. May it please Thee to bless all thy people of every name, with increase of light, and love, and peace. May it please Thee to add to thy true Church daily such as shall be saved, and to bring back all such as have erred and are deceived. May it please Thee to stand by and strengthen the hands and encourage the hearts of all faithful ministers, helping them rightly to divide thy word, and affectionately and successfully to minister to thy Church. Give unto them the spirit of wisdom, and counsel, and might; the spirit of knowledge, and holiness, and the fear of the

Lord. We pray for thine ancient people the Jews, that it may please Thee to visit them; and for the fulness of the Gentiles. We pray for all sick and suffering persons, for all captives and prisoners, for all travellers by sea and land, for our friends and our enemies. May it please Thee to have mercy on all men. The Lord be our keeper and our defence on our right hand; the Lord preserve us from all evil, and keep our souls; the Lord preserve our going out and our coming in, from this time forth and for evermore.

Hear us thy children, O Father, we beseech Thee, for the Lord Jesus' sake. Amen.

XVII.

EVENING PRAYER.

Lessons—Ps. cxlv. Ps. cxlvii. Ephes. i. Ephes. ii.

IT is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy Name, O Thou Most High; to show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night. We will extol Thee, O God, our King; we will bless thy Name for ever and ever. This day our eyes have waited on Thee, and Thou hast

given us our meat in due season; Thou hast opened thy hand, and hast satisfied our wants.

We praise Thee for the blessings of the earth, and the fulness thereof: for life, and air, and light, and health, and all our temporal blessings, forfeited by sin, and restored by grace, we praise Thee, O God. Above all, we praise and thank Thee for that Lord of all power and might, who laid hold of the seed of Abraham, and made Himself of no reputation, and took on Him the form of a servant, and by his death and sacrifice made a perfect atonement for us; having endured our curse, and obeyed the law, and brought in for us an everlasting righteousness. We thank Thee for the

Bible that reveals the glad news, for the Gospel faithfully proclaimed, for the gift of thy Holy Spirit. Fill our hearts with gratitude, increasing gratitude; help us to express it in all we do. May we show forth the praises of Him who hath called us from darkness into his marvellous light. May we not only be, but appear also a holy people, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood. Continue thy loving-kindness; as a father pitieth his children, do Thou pity us. Still make the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice. Pardon our sins; give us a true sense that they are pardoned. Shed abroad within us the blessedness of that man whose sins are pardoned, whose iniquities are blotted out. Give us the

spirit of adoption. Abundantly bless our provision; satisfy our poor with bread. Strengthen the bars of our gates, and bless our children. Make peace in our borders, and fill us with the finest of the wheat.

Gather together the outcasts of Israel. Heal the broken in heart, and bind up their wounds. Fill our hearts with food and gladness, and establish our hearts with thy grace. May the evening of every day remind us of the evening of life; may we work and do good while it is called to day, since the night cometh when no man can work.

In youth and in old age, at morn and at noon, in our going out and coming in, in all time of our wealth, and in all time

of our tribulation, blessed Lord, keep our feet from falling, our eyes from tears, our souls from death. May we be kept continually with Thee; guide us with thy counsel, and afterward receive us to thy glory. Whom have we in heaven but Thee? and there is none upon earth we desire besides Thee; and when our heart and flesh fail, be Thou the strength of our heart, and portion for ever.

The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face shine upon us, and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace.

Now unto Him who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with

exceeding joy; to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. All we beg is for Jesus' sake. Amen.

XVIII.

MORNING PRAYER.

LORD'S DAY MORNING.

Lesson—Psalm cxviii. Matthew xii.

O LORD, we have sinned; what shall we say unto Thee, O Thou Preserver of men? We have sinned against heaven and before Thee, and we are no more worthy to be called thy sons. We are all become as an unclean thing; we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. We have rebelled against Thee. We have fallen by our iniquity.

Our iniquities have increased over our head. O Lord, hide thy face from our sins, we beseech Thee. Pardon the iniquities of thy servants, according to thine infinite mercy and love in Jesus Christ. Be not wroth with us. Remember not, Lord, our offences, neither take Thou vengeance of our sins. Spare us, good Lord; spare thy people whom Thou hast redeemed, not with corruptible things, as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of a Lamb without spot. Deal not with us, O Lord, after our sins, neither reward us according to our iniquities. After thy loving-kindness, O Lord, have mercy upon us. According to the multitude of thy mercies, blot out our transgressions.

O Lord our Father, who hast promised the Spirit to them that ask Thee, graciously fulfil to us this thy promise, for Jesus' sake. May He save us from blindness of mind, from hardness of heart, from contempt of thy word, from indifference to thy Gospel, from insensibility to thy promises, from all sin, and that sin that is unto death. May thy Holy Spirit teach us the truth, and open our hearts to receive it. May we bring forth all the fruits of the Spirit—love without dissimulation, hope that maketh not ashamed, faith that overcometh the world, godly repentance, humility, and wisdom, and peace. In this life grant us knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come joy everlasting.

This day bestow upon us the hearing ear and the understanding heart. Give to thy servants, the ministers of the everlasting Gospel, the spirit of wisdom, and understanding, and faithfulness, and boldness, that they may declare and set forth the unsearchable riches of Christ. May they rightly divide the word of truth. May they win souls. May thy word have free course, and be glorified. We implore thy blessing on thy Church universal. Increase it daily. Build it up in holiness and peace. May all its ministers, and members, and people be like-minded one toward another. May they with one mind and one mouth glorify God. May we not think of ourselves more highly than we ought to

think, but think soberly. Give us grace to be humble, and to serve Thee acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

May our judges be just, our exactors righteous, for all generations. May our Queen reign long in health and happiness over a free, a loyal, a religious people. Bless all the Royal Family. May all under her, and over us in lawful authority, have grace to rule righteously, and to live as examples of true religion. Bless our army and navy, and enlarge thy Church in the midst of them. Prosper our universities and schools. May pure and scriptural religion prevail and prosper among teachers and taught. Bless all our merchants, and husbandmen, and herdsmen, and tradesmen, and labourers, and

all that travel by sea or land. May the blessing of God be upon us and ours to all generations. May our sons be as plants grown up in their youth; may our daughters be as corner-stones, polished after the similitude of a palace. May our garners be full, affording all manner of store; may our sheep bring forth thousands; may our oxen be strong to labour; may there be no breaking in nor going out, and no complaining in our streets. Grant us fruitful seasons. Satisfy our poor with bread. From famine, and pestilence, and war, good Lord, graciously deliver us. Increase our faith, multiply our joys, make our peace like a river. Hasten the coming of the Lord. When earthly Sabbaths

cease, may we be admitted into the rest that remaineth for the people of God, and so be partakers of that inheritance which is incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away.

Mercifully hear these our common supplications, and do to us and for us exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Advocate and Mediator. Amen.

XIX.

EVENING PRAYER.

LORD'S DAY EVENING.

BLESSED, O Lord, we believe, are the people that know the joyful sound; they walk in the light of thy countenance all the day. In thy Name, O Lord, they shall rejoice all the day, and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted. Thou art our God, and we will praise Thee; Thou art our God, and we will exalt Thee. Glory, and honour, and praise, and blessing, and thanksgiving, and wisdom, and riches, and power, and might, be unto our God, and to the Lamb, for ever and ever.

Thou hast blessed us with spiritual blessings; Thou hast loved us with an everlasting love. We praise and thank Thee for all the truths we have heard or read this day. We thank Thee, blessed Lord, for thy holy word in our own tongue, open and accessible to all that will. We bless and thank Thee that our ears have heard and our eyes have seen thy great salvation. We are unworthy of the least of all these thy blessings which Thou hast showed to thy servants. We thank and praise Thee for the house of prayer, for the preaching of the everlasting Gospel, for our peaceful Sabbaths, and for this Sabbath-day now closing. Above all, we thy children praise and bless Thee, O Father of

mercies, that Thou didst so love the world, that Thou gavest thine only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him may not perish, but have eternal life. Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift. We praise Thee for his precious death and perfect sacrifice—for his resurrection from the dead—for his glorious ascension—for his ever living to make intercession for us, and for his promise to come again in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Fill our hearts with richer, deeper, and enduring gratitude. Lord, make us more thankful. May we express our gratitude, not only with our lips and from our hearts, but also in our lives. May we live as we feel, and feel deeper,

and live better day after day. Receiving so great mercies, may we rejoice to spread the knowledge of them among those who are ignorant of them. Make these thy ways known upon the earth, and thy saving health among all nations. May our Sabbaths, and sanctuaries, and Bibles, and glorious Saviour, be enjoyed in heathen, Mahometan, and papal lands. Give thy Son the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession.

Lord, write thy word upon our hearts; sow in our souls the living and incorruptible seed. Imprint in our hearts, deep and indelible for ever, thy blessed Gospel, thy glorious promises, thy precious word. Hide thy truth in our hearts,

that we may not sin against Thee. Incline our hearts to thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. Increase the number of faithful preachers. Send forth into thy vineyard labourers that will not be ashamed,—men rightly dividing the word of truth, apt to teach, full of faith and love, anointed by thy Holy Spirit, who shall turn many to righteousness, and shine as the stars for ever and ever.

Pour down thy Holy Spirit on this parish, on the congregation in which we worship, on thy servant the minister of it, and increase in the midst of us true religion.

Whatever thy holy eye has seen in our thoughts or actions this day displeasing to Thee, graciously forgive, through

Him in whom we have redemption, even the forgiveness of sin.

Whatever we have left undone which we ought to have done, or whatever we have done that we ought not to have done, pardon and put away.

This is our confidence, and with the heart-felt persuasion of it, we close this day,—"The blood of Jesus Christ thy Son cleanseth from all sin." We will this evening lay us down and sleep, for Thou, Lord, only makest us to dwell in safety. Thou art our shield and our glory, and the lifter up of our head. Spread over us thy protecting wings. May we abide under thy shadow. Save us from the terror by night, and from the arrow that flieth by day. Let no evil

befal us, nor any plague come nigh our dwelling. Satisfy us with long life, and show us thy salvation. Be to us a sun and shield. Give us grace and glory. Show us the path of life. Lead us to thy right hand, where there is fulness of joy; and to thy presence, where are pleasures for evermore.

Let the words of our mouth, and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. We present our praises and prayers in the Name and through the mediation of Jesus Christ our only Saviour, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, be everlasting honour and glory. Amen.

XX.

MORNING PRAYER.

Lesson—Psalm ciii.

BLESS the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy Name. O Lord, forgive all our iniquities, the iniquities of our holy things, the sins of our youth, for the sake and in the Name of Him who died for our sins, and rose again for our justification. Blessed Lord, heal all our diseases; subdue the power of sin within us; destroy its poison, and weaken daily

its influence on our hearts. Let thy Holy Spirit guide, and teach, and sanctify, and strengthen us with all might inwardly.

Redeem our life from destruction. Hear the intercession, and accept the suffering and satisfaction of the Lamb, slain in our stead, and in our behalf. We know that our Redeemer liveth, a Mediator between Thee and us; our Advocate with Thee, the Father; our High Priest, who is passed into the heavens, and ever liveth to make intercession for us.

Crown us, O Lord, with loving-kindnesses and tender mercies; we ask of Thee who giveth liberally. Let us taste that Thou art gracious. Give us not

according to our asking, but according to thy love. Bestow upon us pardoning, sanctifying, preventing, and strengthening mercies. Satisfy our mouths with good things. Feed us with the bread that perisheth; but above all, with the bread of life. Renew our strength continually; and as our day is let our strength be. Lord, redress the wrongs, and hear the cry of the oppressed. O Thou who art merciful and gracious, and slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy, deal not with us after our sins, but according to thine infinite mercy in Jesus Christ. As far as the east is distant from the west, so far remove our transgressions from us, blotting them out in the blood of the everlasting covenant.

As a father pitieth his children, so do Thou pity us; for, behold! we are dust, and our days are as grass. Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us from everlasting to everlasting, and thy righteousness upon us, and upon our children's children. Hear us, O Thou whose throne is in the heavens, and whose kingdom ruleth over all. Mercifully hear, and forgive, and bless, and keep us, for the Lord Jesus' sake. And now unto Him who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,—to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

XXI.

EVENING PRAYER.

Lessons—John iii. Ephes. ii. Phil. iii.

HEAVENLY Father, who sentest thy Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved, and hast invited us to look to Him crucified and now crowned for forgiveness and all things, help us so to rest on Him, and to believe in Him, that our sins may be forgiven, and our souls accepted in thy sight.

O Lord, we know that the heart of man is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, and that none but thy Spirit can cure and change it. We therefore beseech Thee to make us new creatures in Christ Jesus; to quicken us, who are by nature dead in trespasses and sins. May we be born again. Give us new hearts. Create us in Christ Jesus to good works. May we walk no more according to the course of this world—according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that worketh in the children of disobedience. Make us, who were far off, nigh to Thee, by the blood of Christ, through whom we have access by thy Holy Spirit to Thee, our Father. May we count all but loss for the excel-

lency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus. May we win Christ, and be found in Him, not having our own righteousness, but his. May we know Him as our Prophet, Priest, and King. May we feel within us the power of his resurrection. May we attain in Him to that first resurrection. Forgetting those things that are behind, and reaching forth unto those things that are before, may we press toward the mark for the prize of our high calling in Christ Jesus. May our conversation be in heaven, whence we look for the Saviour, who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body.

Blessed Lord, forgive us our sins, errors, and offences this day. Be mer-

ciful to us, and spare, and pardon, and remember not against us our transgressions, for Jesus' sake.

We praise Thee, O Lord, and with one heart and one mouth we glorify Thee for all thy goodness and loving-kindness this day; for light, and life, and health, and bread to eat, and raiment to put on; for our knowledge of a Saviour, for our acceptance in his Name, and our hope of his glory. For these, and innumerable mercies and blessings vouchsafed to us, thy unworthy servants, we render unto Thee thanksgiving, and praise, and glory, and love.

Extend our blessings to others. Be mindful of thy whole Church. Gather the dispersed of Israel. Heal the sick.

Be a husband to the widow, the father of the orphan, and the hope of the hopeless. Look down in love on all captives and prisoners,—on all in affliction, tribulation, or distress of any kind, and visit them. Watch over us and ours this night. Defend us from all evil and peril, and keep us, soul and body, to thine everlasting kingdom, through Christ Jesus.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore. Amen.

XXII.

MORNING PRAYER.

Lesson—Ps. cii.

LORD of all power and might, we are poor, and frail, and needy. We have lost our original glory; the gold is become dross. We are guilty. Sin cleaves to our every thought, and word, and deed. Our days are like a shadow that declineth, and we are withered like grass. Arise, O Thou who endurest for ever, and have mercy upon us thy servants, thy children who are called by thy Name.

Blot out our transgressions, for thine own sake. We have gone astray, like

lost sheep; we have turned every one to his own way. See our help, and our sun and shield, on whom Thou hast laid the iniquities of us all, and for his sake graciously save us. Let the heathen fear thy Name, and all the kings of the earth thy glory. Build up Sion, and appear in thy glory. Regard the prayer of the destitute, and do not despise their prayer. Look down from the height of thy sanctuary, O Lord, and behold the earth, and hear the groaning of the prisoner, and loose those who are doomed to death. Let thy Name be declared in Sion, and thy praise in Jerusalem. Let all kingdoms serve Thee.

O Lord, prevent us in all our ways this day. Keep our feet from falling.

Be a voice on our right hand and on our left, evermore saying to us, "This is the way: walk ye in it." Defend us this day from the snares and wiles of the wicked one; from all sin and error; from anger, ill-will, and malice, and uncharitableness. From pride, vain-glory, and hypocrisy, Holy Father, keep us this day.

May we be patient in trials, not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. To live, may it be Christ; to die, may it be great gain.

Accept of these our prayers and praises by that new and living way, the Lamb, slain from the foundation of the world. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. Amen.

XXIII.

EVENING PRAYER.

Lessons—John xiv. Rom. viii. Rev. vii.

BEHOLD, as the eyes of servants look unto the hands of their master, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hands of her mistress, so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God. Show us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation. Lord, we have sinned against heaven and before Thee, and we are no more worthy to be called thy sons. But, O Lord, where sin hath abounded,

let grace much more abound. We come to Thee in Christ Jesus. Let there be no condemnation to us. By Him who is the way, and the truth, and life, we approach and pray to Thee. Hear us, O Lord our Father, and let not our hearts be troubled. We have sinned, but Christ has suffered for us. We have provoked Thee, and vexed thy Spirit, and refused instruction, and turned back, and transgressed thy covenant. But this is our trust, and confidence, and hope—the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin.

O Thou who desirest not the death of the sinner, who art the Father of mercies, with whom there is forgiveness, pardon our iniquities, we beseech Thee.

O Thou who takest away the sins of the world, who camest to seek and to save that which was lost—Lamb of God, our light and life, and our peace, put away our sins, and forgive us.

Holy and Blessed Spirit, our comforter, our teacher, our sanctifier, who didst descend on thy servants as fire, and still visitest and enrichest the souls of thine own, save us from all evil, strengthen us for all duty, prepare us for all trials account us for thine own.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, everlasting and gracious Lord, be our portion, our refuge, our deliverer. Make us to be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting. Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance. May we and

ours be of that holy company who have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. May we therefore stand before the throne. Make us the children of light and of the day. Into thy hands, O Lord, we commit ourselves, soul, and body, and spirit, for Thou hast created and redeemed them. Preserve our down-sitting and up-rising from this time forth, even for evermore. We will lay us down in peace, for Thou, Lord, only makest us to dwell in safety.

Let all flesh see thy glory; let all be blessed in Jesus, and bless Him. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come, graciously bless and keep us. O Lord, that savest

them that hope in Thee, under the shadow of thy wings we will make our refuge. Give us songs in the night. May we remember Thee upon our beds.

Hear us, we humbly beseech Thee, for the sake of Him who died for us, and rose again, and intercedes for us at thy right hand; and to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God, be glory and honour for ever and ever. Amen.

XXIV.

PRAYER IN ROMISH OR TRACTARIAN PARISHES.

Lesson — Gal. i.

ADDRESS.

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.—*Gal.* i. 8.

THESE words, contained in the chapter now read, warrant us to take nothing contrary to the gospel of truth from the lips of any man. The language presupposes that we have some infallible rule or standard by which

we try and test every sentiment or opinion in religion about which any difficulty or doubt arises. This standard is the Word of God—the Bible. Whatever sentiment or opinion in matters of religion, however plausible, contradicts the Bible, is not of God.

The language of the Apostle in this verse not only implies that there is a standard of religious truth, such as the Bible is, but also that the people have a right to read it, and that it is their duty and privilege to do so. "Search the Scriptures." The Bereans were more noble, because they searched the Scriptures, to see if these things were so. And if it be our duty to read the Scriptures, it is no less plainly taught, that it is pos-

sible to understand them;—the command to read implies our ability to understand.

Now, if an Apostle submits his teaching to the Scriptures, surely an Apostle's successor, real or pretended, should do so. No official rank, or dignity, or sacredness, can exempt any teacher of religion from this law. It has no exception or limitation. "Try the spirits," is the injunction of St. John. Our creed must be not what bishop, or archbishop, or presbyter may say, but what God's holy word plainly reveals.

But if an angel, who is the symbol of eloquence, were to preach another Gospel, he must be rejected. "The tongues of angels," is the expression used to describe great power of speech. Were a minister

to preach with the greatest eloquence and genius doctrines contrary to the word of God, it would be our duty to keep him from us, and ourselves from him, as the word anathema denotes.

Were an angel from heaven, that is, a holy and spotless being, to preach any other than evangelical and scriptural truth, we must not hear him. It matters not how correct a minister's outward conduct may be, (and it ought to be spotless,) yet if he preach what is not scriptural, his outward good conduct may not, and must not induce us to embrace his errors. But let us not be induced to go to the house of God as mere critics, but as learners, only determined, by the blessing of God, not to accept any

statement of doctrine or duty which is not plainly revealed in the Bible, or plainly deducible from it. Let us go with our Bibles, exercising our judgments, to which God himself speaks, and praying for, and looking up to his Holy Spirit to teach us, and direct us, and bless us.

PRAYER.

HEAVENLY Father, we thy children thank and praise Thee for thy holy word. We bless Thee for its promises, its invitations, and its doctrines and precepts. We bless Thee for its preservation in the midst of a hostile world, its cheapness, and our possession of it. Above all, we

praise and glorify thy holy Name for Him whom it reveals as the light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. Thanks be to Thee for thine unspeakable gift, a Saviour;—for his atoning death and precious sacrifice and full oblation once for all, for all that believe—for his glorious resurrection and ascension, and that he ever liveth to make intercession for us. May we ever hold fast the truth. May we glory only in Christ crucified. May his sacrifice be our only trust—his righteousness our only justification—the efficacy of his shed blood our only atonement. May we never be drawn away from this to another Gospel. May our sins this day be forgiven, according to thy promises, for his sake. Say Thou

unto our souls, "I am thy salvation." Do Thou absolve us, in thy mercy, and it matters not who condemns us.

Grant us, we beseech Thee, thy Holy Spirit. May He, who alone can, regenerate our hearts. May he sanctify us, teach us, strengthen us, comfort us, keep us, and fit us for thy kingdom and glory.

May we be kept humble. May we never speak the truth, or contend for the truth, but in love. May we hate sin and error; and pity, and pray for, and try to deliver the victims of either.

Look down in love and in compassion on this parish and neighbourhood. Shine upon it; remove from it all error and false doctrine, and stablish in our hearts thy truth and Gospel.

Increase the number of faithful ministers of the Gospel. Provide sound and useful teachers for the young. Let pure and undefiled religion prosper and prevail mightily in the midst of our land. Bless our Sovereign the Queen. May she be defender and protector of all that be oppressed. May she long reign over a free, a loyal, and a truly religious people. Bless all under her and over us in lawful authority. Bless us and ours. Make our children thy children, and our home a house of prayer. And however separated by place and circumstance in this present world, may we meet around the throne of God and the Lamb hereafter.

Hear these our humble and imperfect prayers, in the name and through the

intercession of our only Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

May grace, and mercy, and peace, from God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, rest and abide upon us all, evermore. Amen.

XXV.

PRAYER IN ROMISH OR TRACTARIAN PARISHES.

Lesson—John iii.

ADDRESS.

IN this chapter we are plainly told that a great change must pass upon every one of us before we can be made meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of heaven." It matters not what he is by nature or in society. He may be a dignitary in the Church, or a patrician in the State; he may be very learned,

or very upright; these neither qualify nor disqualify for heaven. There is only one character that fits for heaven, just as there is but one righteousness that entitles to heaven—what no man has by nature, what every man may have by grace—and that is a new nature, regeneration of heart—being born again.

No man can give this. No priest or minister on earth can do it. No church or ceremony or sacrament can give it. The minister can baptize with water: Christ alone can baptize with the Holy Spirit. We may be baptized in any way, or according to any ceremony, and yet not be born again. Have we received the Holy Spirit? Are we new creatures? Do we love that Saviour we once despised

or neglected? Do we love that blessed Book which tells us what he has done for us? Does religion,—salvation,—the soul,—eternity, take up more of our thoughts, and affections, and hopes, than they used to do? Do we pray more, or do more, for the spread of Christ's kingdom, and for the salvation of others? Do we lead new lives, and show new tempers, and walk in a new way?

We are told that the way to obtain this is explained by the way in which the Israelites, wounded and dying in the wilderness, obtained health. By the appointment of God, a brass serpent was raised on a pole, and whoever looked, derived from the serpent, through the look, a cure. In the same manner we

are to look to Jesus Christ, and from him, crucified for our sins, and risen again for our justification, and through our looking with the heart, or believing, we receive the Holy Spirit, by whom we are born again. Our Lord expressly promised to send us the Holy Spirit. We therefore look to him and pray to him to give us this Spirit. He will make all things new. He will give us new hearts, and new liking, and new joy, and new strength—all we need.

The fountain or source from which a Saviour thus came to pardon and redeem us by his blood, and the Holy Spirit to sanctify and regenerate us by his mighty power, is stated in these

words :—"God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him might not perish, but have eternal life."

It was no merit, or claim, or supplication of ours that induced God thus to interpose. He loved us, not because Christ died for us—this is grievous misapprehension. Christ died for us because God loved us. Christ, the sacrifice and Saviour, is not only the sole channel along which God's love may come to pardon and save us, but he is also the evidence of it — the expression, and fruit, and measure of it.

PRAYER.

O GOD, our Creator, Preserver, and Benefactor, our Father also, we bow our souls at thy footstool, and ask, in the name of Jesus, mercy and forgiveness. Thou art the Hope of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea. Often have we sinned against thee; too often have we forgotten and forsaken thee. We acknowledge our sins; we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly. O Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin, have mercy upon

us, and through the sacrifice, and satisfaction, and death of the Lord Jesus, blot out all our sins, and remember them not against us any more for ever. This only is our hope—Jesus hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. He was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed.

Grant us, in the name, and through the mediation, and according to the promise of our Lord, thy Holy Spirit. May we be satisfied with nothing short of this. God forbid that we should deceive ourselves by looking to any man or ordinance for that gift which Christ alone is exalted to bestow. Forbid, Heavenly

Father, that any of us should think that we are born again because we are baptized; or that we have new hearts because we are outwardly moral; or that we belong to Christ's true and spiritual Church because we belong to a branch of the visible Church.

Create in us clean hearts; make us new creatures; change our nature, if it be not yet changed. Turn us from darkness to light. Make us holy, that we may feel happy. We are assured that, "if we, being evil, know how to give good gifts to our children, much more wilt thou give the Holy Spirit to them that ask thee." Father, we thy children ask of thee this great and precious gift. Deny us not, O Thou, whose word is

truth, whose promises are in Christ Jesus yea and amen.

Lift our hearts high above the means we use. May we neither idolize nor despise the ordinances of the Gospel. May we use them and worship Thee. May we hear the minister and follow Christ. Make us more like Thee. Sanctify us through thy truth. Strengthen our faith—revive our hopes—restore us to our first love—guide us, day by day, by thy wisdom—enrich us, day by day, with thy grace. Renew us by thy Spirit—purify our affections—keep us from falling. Bless our land—God, be merciful unto us, and bless us, and cause thy face to shine upon us; that thy way may be known upon earth, and thy

saving health among all nations. Let the people praise Thee, O Lord, let all the people praise Thee. Let our land yield its increase, and God, our own God, do Thou bless us!

Pour down thy Holy Spirit on thy Church universal, on all its ministers and missionaries throughout the world!

Bless our Queen; establish her throne in righteousness, and in the hearts and affections of her people! Give peace in our time, O Lord!

Mercifully hear, and answer, and forgive us; and do for us, and to us, exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think, for Jesus' name's sake!

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom

come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

XXVI.

FOR THE SICK AND AFFLICTED.

WHOM the Lord loveth he chasteneth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons.—*Heb.* xii. 6, 7.

Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.—*Heb.* xii. 11.

Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou

the chastening of the Almighty: for he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole. He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.—*Job* v. 17—19.

For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee.—*Isaiah* liv. 7, 8, 10.

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature.—2 *Pet.* i. 4.

All the promises in Christ are yea and amen.—2 *Cor.* i. 20.

I will visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my loving kindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.—*Ps.* lxxxix. 32, 33.

They that sow in tears, shall reap in joy.—*Ps.* cxxvi. 5.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.—*Matt.* v. 4.

The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up those that be bowed down. —*Ps.* cxlv. 14.

The Lord healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.—*Ps.* cxlvii. 3.

Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.—*Ps.* lxxiii. 23—26.

May we faint not, but though our outward man perish, yet let the inward man be renewed day by day. May our light affliction, which is but for a moment, work out for us a far more

exceeding, even an eternal weight of glory. May we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. When our earthly house of this tabernacle is dissolved, may we have a building, O God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.—2 *Cor.* iv. 16—18, and v. 1.

Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thy heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.—*Ps.* xxvii. 14.

But Thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.—*Ps.* lv. 23.

He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.—*Ps.* ciii. 9.

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.—*Ps.* xxv. 10.

And enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.—*Ps.* cxliii. 2.

Though He slay me, yet will I trust in him.—*Job* xiii. 15.

By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea.—*Ps.* lxv. 5.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy

rod and thy staff, they comfort me.—*Ps.* xxiii. 4.

Remove thy stroke away from me: I am consumed by the blow of thine hand. *Ps.* xxxix. 10.

Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways: behold thou art wroth, for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved.

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. But now, O Lord, thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever: behold, see, we beseech thee, we are all thy people.—*Isaiah* lxiv. 5, 6, 8, 9.

We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments.

O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.

To the Lord belong mercies and

forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him.

O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.

Now therefore, O God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.

O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our suppli-

cations before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies.

O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.—*Daniel* ix. 5, 7, 9, 16—19.

Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou?

But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a tempest on the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.—*Jonah* i. 8, 4.

For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good I find not.

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man.

But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.—*Rom.* vii. 14, 18, 22, 23.

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.—1 *Tim.* i. 15.

For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness,

lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries.—1 *Pet.* iv. 3.

Forasmuch as ye know ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.—1 *Pet.* i. 18, 19.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.—1 *John* i. 8.

For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.—1 *John* iii. 20.

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any

man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.—1 *John* ii. 1, 2.

XXVII.

BY THE LAW IS THE KNOWLEDGE OF SIN.

Lessons—Exod. xx. Gal. v. 19—24.

O LORD, I have sinned against Thee, my Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer. I have erred and strayed from Thee, and failed to glorify Thee, and heartily to trust in Thee, as I ought.

O Lord, I have not worshipped Thee in spirit and in truth. I have drawn near to Thee with my lips, while my heart has been far from Thee. I have

had the form without the power of godliness. I have taken thy Name in vain—I have thoughtlessly named it, and have not hallowed it as I ought.

I have not kept holy thy Sabbaths as I ought, but have spoken my own words, and walked in my own ways, and thought my own thoughts, nor have I counted a day in thy courts better than a thousand.

I have not reverenced, and prayed for, and spoken of, all over me and under Thee in lawful authority as I ought.

I have not loved my neighbour as I ought, nor helped him, nor ministered to the necessities of the poor, nor sympathized with the sufferer as I ought. I have envied when I ought to have rejoiced.

I have admitted into my heart unholy

thoughts. I have not made a covenant with mine eyes, nor kept my body in subjection, nor mortified its lusts as became me.

I have not been content with such things as I had, nor always done justly, and loved mercy, and walked humbly with Thee.

I have not been careful to speak and write only truth; I have failed to defend it and promote it as I ought.

Many evil thoughts and affections, and wandering desires, and sinful imaginations, have crept through my mind, and tarried among my affections.

By deeds of law I feel I cannot be justified. I have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Let me now be

justified freely by thy grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Pronounce thyself in my soul this absolution —"Thy sins be forgiven thee." Let the efficacy of the blood of Jesus cleanse me from all my sins. Let his perfect righteousness cover me, and be my only and all-sufficient title to a crown of glory.

Save me, if it please Thee, from disease of body; but save me, above all, from sin. Deliver my soul. Remember me with the favour Thou bearest to thine own. Fulfil to me thy promises. Grant me thy Holy Spirit. Take not thy Spirit from me. Forsake me not when my strength faileth. In the multitude of my thoughts within me, let thy comforts delight my soul. Hear my prayer, O

Lord, and in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness. My heart fainteth, and my flesh faileth: be Thou the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. Let goodness and mercy follow me. Let me dwell in thy house for ever. Show me thy mercy, O Lord, and grant me thy salvation. Arise for my help, and redeem me for thy mercies' sake. Hide not thy face from thy servant. Turn unto me according to the multitude of thy mercies. Whether I live or die, I am thine. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth. Show me the path of life. In thy presence is fulness of joy: at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Hear me, and help me, and bless me.

If I live, guide me evermore with thy counsel: if I die, conduct me to thy glory. I ask all in the Name and for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour and only sacrifice. Amen.

XXVIII.

PRAYER WITH AND FOR THE DYING,

OFFERED UP BY RELATIVES AND FRIENDS.

LORD, let thy servant depart in peace. Let *him* see thy salvation. Be at *his* right hand. Forgive *him his* sins, in the Name and through the mediation of the Lord Jesus. Say unto *his* soul, "I am thy salvation." Guide *him* through the valley of the shadow of death. Adopt *him* as thy son, and receive *him* into the inheritance of light, we humbly beseech Thee.

Blessed Saviour, save *him*. Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world, take away the sins of thy servant. Lord Jesus, receive *his* spirit. King of glory, open to *him* the gates of glory. Say to *him*, "To-day shalt thou be with me in Paradise." Let *him* enter into thy joy.

Holy Spirit, keep *him* as thy temple. Anoint *him* with unction from on high. Make *him* meet for thy glory. Comfort *him* in suffering. Remind *him* of thy precious truths, thy comforting promise, and help *him* richly to realize the earnest of the future glory. Help *him* to say, "O death, where is thy sting?" and to feel it is not *he*, but death, that dies.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, be

his present portion and *his* eternal joy. Let our great High Priest intercede for *him*. Let the Holy Spirit intercede in *him*.

The Lord bless *him* and keep *him*; the Lord make his face shine upon *him*, and be gracious unto *him*. The Lord lift up his countenance upon *him*, and give *him* peace.

Hear, O Lord, and answer, according to the multitude of thy mercies, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

XXIX.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYER FOR SURVIVING RELATIVES.

Lessons—Ps. xc. Ps. xxxix. John xiv. 1 Cor. xv.

THE Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the Name of the Lord.—*Job* i. 21.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.—*Ps.* cxvi. 15.

The righteous is taken away from the evil to come. They shall enter into peace; they shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness.—*Isa.* lvii. 1, 2.

It is well.—2 *Kings* iv. 26.

Thy will be done in earth as it is done in heaven.—*Matt.* vi. 10.

I heard a voice from heaven, saying

unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.—*Rev.* xiv. 13.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul, and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him who is the health of my countenance and my God.—*Psalm* xliii. 5.

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the

coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.—1 *Thess.* iv. 13—18.

PRAYER.

LORD, help me to rest in thy will, to see thy wisdom, and love, and fatherly goodness in all. Lord, not as I will, but as Thou wilt. Enable me to give

Thee thanks in every thing. May I be crucified to the world, and the world to me. May my heart be more and more in heaven, and my treasure there also.

Forgive my suspicions of thy love, my doubts of thy goodness, my murmuring at thy doings, through Him that redeemed me by his blood. Say to me, "Be still;" and again, "It is I." May I be so exercised by this affliction, that, under the blessing of the Holy Spirit, it shall work out the peaceable fruits of righteousness.

May my heart say, It is well.

May I and those who are gone before meet together in eternal peace, and so be for ever with the Lord.

Come, Lord Jesus; even so, come quickly. Amen.

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.

I.

BEFORE THE COMMUNION.

Lessons—Ps. xliii. Ps. cxxxix. Ps. li. John xix. 1 Cor. xi. Rev. vii.

HEAVENLY Father! my God and my Father! search me and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. Hear my prayer, O

Lord, give ear to my supplications; in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness; and enter not into judgment with thy servant, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

Trusting in the finished sacrifice of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and believing thy love to me in and by Him, I would draw near to the communion table, or rather to my Saviour at it, and publicly confess his name, as my hope; his cross, as my glory; and his death and meritorious sacrifice as my life, and the foundation of all my joys and prospects for ever. I desire at thy holy table to partake, in yet greater assurance, of the body and blood of my Saviour—that is, of the most excellent blessings

of that precious victim. Especially do I desire to offer myself—soul, and body, and spirit—on Christ, the only altar, a spiritual sacrifice to Thee, which is my reasonable service. I would also, at that place of thanksgiving—of retrospect and prospect—of remembered blessings given by Thee, and hoped-for joys promised by Thee—praise, and thank, and bless Thee, with all my heart and soul and strength. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Thou forgivest all mine iniquities. Thou healest all my diseases. Thou redeemest my life from destruction. Thou crownest me with loving-kindness and tender

mercies. Thou satisfiest my mouth with good things. Thou hast not dealt with me after my sins. Thou hast been to me merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. As a father pitieth his children, so hast Thou pitied me.

My Lord and Saviour! Prince of Life! Lamb of God! I bless Thee, and praise and thank Thee, that Thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb; that, when Thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death. Thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. I thank Thee that Thou didst give life where death had gotten the victory; that Thou givest pardon to them who have sinned so long and so grievously against Thee. I bless Thee for

thine infinite love—thy voluntary suffering, and sorrows, and affliction, and passion and death for me. I praise and thank Thee for thy resurrection from the dead; thy glorious ascension; thine unceasing and all-sufficient intercession for me in the true holy place; for thy promise to come again; for a church, and ministry, and ordinances in the midst of us; for the holy ordinance of the Supper, and for this opportunity of participating of it. I thank Thee that Thou tookest to thyself as thy part all the pain and agony, and hast bequeathed to me as my privilege all the pleasure. Thine was the pain, and thine alone is the glory of the sacrifice. Mine, in Thee and from Thee, is the pleasure of the feast upon the

sacrifice. Lord, fill my soul with adoring gratitude; with lively faith; with joy unspeakable; with deep purposes of devotedness to Thee; with earnest desires and resolutions to honour, and confess, and magnify Thee in the world. May I never be ashamed of Thee. May I count all but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Thee. May I delight to make known thy will to all who are ignorant of it, and to spread thy glorious gospel from sea to sea, and to spend and be spent to lead all within reach of my means, or influence, to the knowledge of Thee.

Renew my heart day by day; subdue within it the power, and destroy the life of sin. Replenish my heart with thy

love, and my understanding with heavenly light. Raise my affections to thyself. Purify me with thy Holy Spirit. Deliver me from all evil—from prejudice, evil passion, envy, ill-will, malice, and all uncharitableness. Remove from me the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. Make my heart a temple for thy dwelling; and, wherever thy providence may place me, may I seek grace to serve Thee, as I fully purpose to glorify and honour Thee, and confess thy name, and do thy will.

Perfect thy strength in my weakness. Guide me with thy counsel. Hold me by thy right hand, and, when heart and flesh faint and fail, be the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.

I go forward in thy strength, O God, my Father in heaven.

I clothe myself in thy righteousness, and wash my hands in thy innocency, O Son of God.

I look for thy grace, and comfort, and inspiration, and joy, and peace, Eternal and ever-blessed Spirit.

O God of the saints in glory and the saints on earth—one Church—be my shield and fortress, and high tower, and present and eternal rest.

In the name of the only Saviour I pray and beg for all.

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our

daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

II.

AFTER THE COMMUNION.

Lessons—Ps. cxvi. Ps. ciii. John xiv. Rom. xii.

O LORD, I thank Thee for the mercies and privileges of this day; for its peace and joy. May the truths I have heard—the impressions I have felt—the blessings I have reaped—abide in my soul through life.

Leaning on Thee, I go forth into the world, beseeching Thee to strengthen, uphold, and keep me in the way of life.

May the precious blood of the Lamb

of God be still my only trust, as it is the only atonement. May the righteousness of Him who was made sin for us be my righteousness still. May I ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which Thou hast given me in Christ Jesus. May I run with fresh joy, and renewed strength, the race set before me, looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of my faith.

May thy Holy Spirit help me to abhor that which is evil, and cleave to that which is good. May I be kindly affectioned to others with brotherly love, in honour preferring others. May I not be slothful in business. May I be fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hos-

pitality. May I bless them which persecute me; may I bless, and curse not. May I rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. May my light so shine before men, that they, seeing my good works, may glorify Thee my Father in heaven. May I never be the unhappy occasion of any one dishonouring my Lord, or of obstructing the spread of the glorious gospel.

May the peace that passeth understanding keep my mind and heart in the love and knowledge of Christ Jesus.

May grace, and mercy, and peace, from Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—one God—be with me and abide with me for ever. May goodness and mercy follow me all the days of my life, and may I dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

In the Name of Jesus I beg for these, and yet greater and richer blessings. Amen.

Unto Him that is able to keep me from falling, and to present me faultless before the presenee of his glory with exceeding joy—to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

The God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make me perfect in every good work to do his will, working in me that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

III.

A GENERAL PRAYER, OR LITANY,

FOR ALL TIMES, PLACES, AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

FATHER, Son, and Holy Spirit—one God, and our God—have mercy upon us, and bless us, for we are poor, and miserable, and blind, and naked. Oh! remember not, Lord, our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers, neither take Thou vengeance of our sins. Spare us, good Lord; spare thy people, redeemed with precious blood, and be not angry with us for ever.

From all evil and mischief; from sin,

from the crafts and assaults of the devil; from thy wrath, and from everlasting condemnatiou, O Lord, deliver us.

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vain-glory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice, and all uncharitableness, good Lord, deliver us.

From lightning and tempest; from plague, pestilence, and famine; from battle and murder, and sudden death, O Lord, deliver us.

From fornication, and all other deadly sin; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil, blessed Lord, deliver us.

From all sedition, privy conspiracy, and rebellion; from all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of

heart, and contempt of thy word and commandment, O Lord, deliver us.

May it please Thee to illuminate all bishops, curates, pastors, ministers, and teachers, of every name, with true knowledge and understanding of thy word; and that both by their preaching and living they may set it forth, and show it accordingly. Bless and keep all thy people. Give to all nations unity, peace, and concord. May it please Thee to give us an heart to love and dread Thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments. Give to all thy people increase of grace to hear meekly thy word, and to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit. May it please Thee

to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred and are deceived. May it please Thee to strengthen such as do stand; and to comfort and help the weak-hearted; and to raise up them that fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet. May it please Thee to succour, help, and comfort, all that are in danger, necessity, and tribulation. Preserve all that travel by land or by water, all women labouring of child, all sick persons, and young children; and show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives. May it please Thee to defend, and provide for, the fatherless children, and widows, and all that are desolate and oppressed. May it please Thee to have mercy upon all men. Forgive our enemies,

persecutors, and slanderers, and turn their hearts. May it please Thee to give and preserve to our use the kindly fruits of the earth, so as in due time we may enjoy them. Forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances, and endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit, to amend our lives according to thy word.

We humbly beseech Thee, O Father, mercifully to look upon our infirmities, and for the glory of thy Name turn from us all those evils that we most righteously have deserved; and grant, that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in thy mercy, and evermore serve Thee in holiness and pureness of living, to thy honour and glory, through our only Mediator and

Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name and words we close our petitions at this time.

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore. Amen.

SHORT PRAYERS

FOR SPARE MINUTES.

I.

FOR THE MAN OF BUSINESS.

LORD, keep me this day without sin. Fix in my heart the truths of thy word, and by thy Spirit keep and expand them there. Pardon mine iniquities in and through the blood of Jesus. Purify my heart by the Spirit of Jesus.

In my employment in the world this day, may I speak, act, and bargain as in thy sight. May I not make haste to be

rich by engaging in rash speculations, or in crooked and unrighteous courses. May I be seen and felt to be a Christian on the exchange, in the warehouse, in the shop, in every sphere into which my duties may this day carry me. May my deeds declare it—may the world see it; and as the result, may thy cause prosper and prevail more among men.

Bless me and make me a blessing. Help me to undertake wisely, to act honestly; and give me in all my undertakings such a measure of success as shall most honour Thee, and best promote my own true prosperity and spiritual health, and that of those dependent on me. I beg this in the name of my only Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

II.

FOR A FARMER OR HUSBANDMAN.

I LIFT my heart to Thee, O God. In Thee I live, and move, and have my being. Against Thee I have frequently and wickedly sinned. I have incurred thy just displeasure, and deserved eternal misery. But, O Lord, forgive and receive me into thy friendship, through the mediation, meritorious righteousness, and atoning death of thy Son. Renew my heart by thy Holy Spirit; purify its springs; sanctify my nature; regenerate my soul. I see and hear Thee

in the winds and waters, in seed-time and harvest; and in all, I pray I may ever adore and worship Thee as the source of increase. Visit the earth, and water it; enrich it with thy rivers; make it soft with showers; bless the springing of it; crown the year with thy goodness; clothe our pastures with flocks; cover the valleys with corn. Prosper the work of my hands. Bestow thy blessing on me and mine. Raise my heart to Thyself. Feed me with the bread of life. On me, and my lands, and labour, and household, and homestead, let thine Almighty blessing rest this day, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

III.

FOR A LANDED PROPRIETOR.

HEAVENLY Father, I come into thy holy presence a sinner, seeking forgiveness in the name of Jesus, and grace, and holiness, and peace from the Spirit of Jesus.

Give me, O Lord, a deep and ever present sense of responsibility to Thee for the use of the property, influence, position, which Thou hast given me, and of which I must render an account to Thee. May I study to do good—to make better and happier those who

are, in thy providence, connected with me or dependent on me. May I be just, and generous, and humble, by thy grace. May I adorn the Gospel, and commend it by my life to the acceptance of others. Hide pride from mine eyes. May I do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Thee, my God. May I ever bear in mind that I must give an account of my stewardship; that if I am richer than others, it is that I may be more useful to others.

Grant me wisdom, grace, and guidance from Thyself, so that having served Thee here, I may, through Christ Jesus, live and reign with Thee hereafter. Amen.

IV.

FOR A LEGISLATOR.

GREAT and blessed God—Lord of heaven and earth—hear me, and pardon me, and sanctify me, a sinner before Thee. Let the Saviour's precious death be the expiation of my sins. Let the Holy Spirit cleanse the thoughts of my heart. Help me in my public and private capacity—in my house and in the senate—to seek above all things thy honour and glory. May I speak and vote as in the presence of Thee the Great Legislator. May I be

a Christian senator. May my personal and official character be alike inspired, influenced, and directed by Thee. Lead and help me in all my ways to acknowledge Thee; to lift up my heart to Thee; and under a deep sense of my ignorance and weakness, to appeal to Thee for thy Spirit in every difficulty, perplexity, and duty. Lord, hear, and help, and direct me, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

V.

FOR A TEACHER OF YOUTH.

O THOU who teachest savingly, and guidest in the way of truth all that truly seek Thee, pour down upon me the light of thy truth, and the influence of thy heavenly grace, and enable me to discharge the responsible duties committed to me with earnest care, devotedness, and zeal. Teach me, that I may teach others; sanctify my heart, that my life may commend my instructions. Give me patience, gentleness, temper. May I never fail to

impress that knowledge which is peace, and to lead the young to the Fountain of Life. On me and my charge pour down thy rich and precious blessing; make my school a nursery of true Christians. May my pupils prove blessings to their parents, and useful members of society, and ornaments and pillars in the Church of Christ. I beg this and all other mercies in Christ's name. Amen.

VI.

FOR A MOTHER.

GREAT Father of all who are adopted in Jesus Christ, I lift my heart to Thee for guidance. Give me grace to live and act as a Christian parent; to train up those Thou hast given me supremely for eternal joy; and to devote all my influence as a mother to their progress in the knowledge, and love, and imitation of the Lord Jesus Christ. United by near and dear ties on earth, may we be united by ties which shall never be dissolved; and

may our separation here, whenever it may please Thee to pronounce it, be the beginning only of that everlasting union and communion in glory which shall experience no interruption. Pardon our sins; purify our hearts; help us in our duties; make us thankful for mercies; and finally fit us for glory. All I ask for me and mine is in Jesus' name, and for his sake. Amen.

THOUGHTS

FOR SPARE MINUTES.

I.

THEN they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.—*Mal.* iii. 16, 17.

THE communion of saints on earth is not inoperative or unexpressed. The subject of their happiest conversation is Christianity, the

keynote of their songs is Christ; and the "fear of the Lord," which is their characteristic in this verse, is the burden of their discourse.

It is not said, they proclaimed their experience at the corners of the streets, or before crowds. They spake one to another. Ostentation is scarcely compatible with deep piety. Noise is not the expression of that inner harmony of soul which is the creation of the Spirit of God. On the other hand, silence is selfish and worse. The mouth will give utterance to the abundance of the heart; our mutual growth in grace will be dear to us, and matter of anxious inquiry. God hears in heaven such Christian and confidential talk.

Eloquence, so prized by man, is spent ere it reach the skies. Pure, and holy, and spiritual thoughts, simply expressed and poured into a friendly ear, rise above the din of the world, and reach the ear of the Lord of Hosts. Such conversation becomes members of Churches, families, circles of friendship and acquaintance. It is no slight evidence of Christian character. They that exemplify it are numbered with God's precious jewels, and are being polished by many a varied process for his use and glory.

II

My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord.—*Psalm* civ. 34.

NONE but one who is conscious of acceptance through the shed blood and finished sacrifice of the Son of God, and has received the Spirit of adoption, can give earnest and sincere expression to the thought of the Psalmist.

The unrenewed and unconverted turn with aversion from God. "No God," is their wish; standing at a distance from Him is their position; dread of Him as the Holy and Just One is their feeling. Our feelings while we think of God are no slight evidence of our state before Him. How do we feel? Do we

see, not our sinfulness less real, less grievous, less evil, but God our Father in Christ forgiving it; sending the Lamb of God to die for us, and to take away our sins? And can we, in spite of our sins and unworthiness, draw near to God as to a Father, and meditate on his mercy and truth, which have met together, his righteousness and peace, which have kissed each other?

In providence and grace, in law and gospel, in creation and revelation, we shall think of Him, and our thoughts shall be sweet. The Father, Friend, and Benefactor will shine forth in all, and pour into our meditation a peculiar and lasting sweetness. Our purest and richest joy will flow from Him; the spring

of our deepest happiness will evermore be found in Him; and with the Prophet we shall have grace to say, "Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be on the vines; though the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

III.

ALL these things are against me.—*Gen.* xlii. 36.

THIS is always the language of the men of this world in trouble; it is occa-

sionally in very bitter moments the impression of the people of God.

The men of this world think the world very badly managed. The misfortune, the sickness, the sword, or the famine, they lament as having happened at all; but bad as they are, they say, if these calamities had occurred at another period, under other circumstances, or without certain accompaniments of aggravation and intensity, they could have stood it out; but now all things are against them.

But whatever be the feelings of those who are strangers to the power of the Gospel of Jesus, and whatever be the complexion, effect, and issue of the events which compass them, not one of these things is really against the people of God. On the contrary, it is expressly

declared, "All things work together for good to them that love God and are the called according to his purpose." Let us never impeach the wisdom of God; let us never doubt the beneficence of all He does to us, and for us, and with us. Let us not judge atheistically, and so suppose that God is not in all events and occurrences; nor judge carnally, and think his wrath is in what pains us; but Scripturally and truly, and so believe and know that all winds waft us homeward, and all trials purify us for glory, and all clouds drop on us refreshing influence; and finally, that neither life nor death, nor things present, nor things past, nor things to come, shall separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

IV.

GOD hath made Him who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.—2 *Cor.* v. 21.

IN these words is the very substance of the Gospel—the grand foundation of our peace—the great provision for sinners.

In what sense was Christ made sin for us? This is an important inquiry, because in the same sense we are made righteousness in Him. In his nature He was holy, harmless, and separate from sin; infinitely removed from all taint or possibility of taint of evil. He was made sin by having our sins imputed to Him. On Him were laid the iniquities of us all. "He bare our sins in his own body on

the tree." He, the spotless lamb, wore the tainted fleece of the fallen and stray sheep.

In the same sense, the Apostle tells us, are "we made the righteousness of God in him." Sin was external to Christ,—on Him, but not in Him. Thus, righteousness is external to us,—on us, but not in us. Christ died for sin not his own; and we shall be justified and live because of a righteousness not our own. If sin laid on Christ brought down on Him the awful penalties and judgments inseparable from it, will not perfect righteousness laid on us draw down on us the blessings of eternal life, equally inseparable from it? Christ was not worthy of death when He was condemned to die;

and we shall not be worthy of life when acquitted and accepted at the judgment-seat. He took on Him our sins, and suffered the penalty. We by faith receive his righteousness, and obtain the reward.

Thus we are justified before God, not by anything we do, suffer, or sacrifice, but by what Christ has done for us. Just in proportion as we see, and approach, and cleave to this truth, do we feel peace.

May we thus hold fast—thus live and die. Amen.

V.

RETURN to thine own house, and show how great things God hath done unto thee.—*Luke* viii. 39.

THIS prescription is the right and only corrective of two extreme errors into which young converts are apt to fall.

One class, delighted and thankful at the great change which the Spirit of God has wrought upon their hearts, but afraid of subsequent failure and inconsistency, or anxious to escape the reproach of the world, bury their convictions in their own bosoms, and are satisfied to stand right before God. To them the command is addressed, "Return to thine house, and *show* how great things God

hath done unto thee." Do not hide your light under a bushel. Do not monopolize the good you have received. You are made a saint, that you may become a servant. You are converted, that your house may be enlightened.

There is another class also, consisting of those who have been long converted, full of zeal, enthusiasm, energy. These in the excitement of the change abandon the employment in which they have been placed in the providence of God, and aspire to, or rashly rush into, a sphere of duties and responsibilities for which they are not qualified. To these last it is seasonably said, "Return *to thine own house*, and show how great things God hath done unto thee." Return a new man

to the sphere in which you have long acted as an old man; try what you can do there, first, by beautiful example, by holy conversation, by a word in season; and having done good there, you may find in the providence of God a new opening for usefulness in a wider sphere.

VI.

THE grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.—*Tit.* ii. 11, 12.

THE Gospel is not only the good news of deliverance from the curse and condem-

nation of sin, but also from the power, pollution, and supremacy of sin within us. If our title to everlasting happiness be, as it doubtless is, the rignteousness of the Son of God, we must not forget that our fitness for such happiness is the work of the Holy Spirit of God.

Grace gives us salvation from all that disentitles us to heaven, and from all that disqualifies us,—so inseparably so, that he who looks for heaven by another's merits, lives nevertheless most soberly, righteously, and godly; as righteousness without is ever the covering of holiness within,—the former perfect from the first, the latter progressive.

To live "soberly," or, to be temperate in food, drink, raiment, speech, desires;

to live "righteously," or to do justly, and honourably, and conscientiously, in all the relations of life, as children, parents, husbands, wives, subjects, rulers, servants, and masters; and to live "godly," or, to do all this under a sense of the presence of God, and of felt and grateful obligation for his love, and with a desire to honour Him, and advance his cause, and glorify his Name,—are impulses from the grace of God, and clear proofs that our names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

VII.

LOOKING for that blessed hope, the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ our great God and Saviour, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.—*Tit.* ii. 13, 14.

THE hope and desire of all true believers is the second glorious coming of the Son of God. They recollect his promise—"I will come again;" and ever as they recollect it, they cry, "Come, Lord Jesus."

The bride desires and prays for the presence of the Bridegroom. She feels her happiness incomplete till the Bridegroom comes. All the prospect opened up in the closing chapters of the Book of Revelation cannot be to her a substitute

for Christ. She will long for and hail the dawn of that new glory, because it is made up of rays from the Sun of Righteousness. Are we among them that look for Him? If so, our affections will rise above the world, and cluster round his throne, and draw beauty, and joy, and strength from his presence; we shall live as pilgrims, and strangers, and sojourners; our heart, hope, and treasure will be above and beyond the world. This world's trials will fret our spirits less—this world's joys will excite them less. In the world, we shall not be of it; and our hearts shall neither be in it nor of it, but where Christ is.

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